United Nations S/PV.3923

Security Council

Fifty-third Year

Provisional

3923rd Meeting

Wednesday, 9 September 1998, 11.45 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Dahlgren	(Sweden)
Members:	Bahrain	Mr. Buallay
	Brazil	Mr. Valle
	China	Mr. Qin Huasun
	Costa Rica	Mr. Niehaus
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Gabon	Mr. Dangue Réwaka
	Gambia	Mr. Jagne
	Japan	Mr. Owada
	Kenya	Mr. Mahugu
	Portugal	Mr. Monteiro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	Slovenia	Mr. Zbogar
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Mr. Burleigh

Agenda

Consideration of the draft report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

98-85737 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.50 a.m.

Expression of condolences

The President: At the outset of the meeting, I should like, on behalf of the Council, to express deep sorrow in connection with the tragic air accident which occurred on 2 September 1998 with respect to Swissair flight 111 and which claimed the lives of more than 200 persons, including seven personnel of the United Nations system. The members of the Council express heartfelt sympathy to the families of all the victims, and in particular to the relatives of those who lost their lives in the service of the ideals of the United Nations. I request the representatives of Switzerland and the United States of America, as well as the representatives of all other countries whose nationals were aboard the flight, to convey to their Governments and to the bereaved families our deepest condolences.

I now request members of the Council to stand and observe a minute of silence in memory of those who so tragically lost their lives.

The members of the Security Council observed a minute of silence.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of September, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Danilo Türk, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of August 1998. I am sure that I speak for all members of the Security Council in expressing our deep appreciation to Ambassador Türk for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Consideration of the draft report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

The President: The Security Council will now proceed to the consideration of its annual report to the General Assembly, the draft of which has been prepared by the Secretariat. Members of the Council have before them the draft report of the Security Council to the General Assembly for the period from 16 June 1997 to 15 June 1998, as circulated by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on 24 August 1998, and a corrigendum thereto.

I should like to express appreciation to the Secretariat for the work it has undertaken in preparing this factual report.

I now call on the Director of the Security Council Affairs Division to make an explanatory statement.

Mrs. Bali (Director of the Security Council Affairs Division): The draft annual report of the Security Council for the period 16 June 1997 to 15 June 1998, to be submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations in pursuance of Article 24, paragraph 3, and Article 15, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Charter, has been prepared by the Secretariat in line with the revised format agreed upon by the Security Council in 1974 and further revised in 1985, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1997.

The format of the draft report before the Council provides a guide to the activities of the Council in a concise manner. It corresponds to the Council's decisions on the format. This is the first report prepared in accordance with the measures set out in the note by the President of 12 June 1997, in S/1997/451, which were aimed at enhancing the analytical nature of the report and accommodating the views expressed on the previous format. It should be noted that the addendum to the report contains monthly assessments prepared by former Presidents of the Security Council under their own responsibility, for the month during which they presided, and following consultations with members of the Council.

The draft report was circulated by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on 24 August 1998 to the current members of the Security Council and also to the members whose terms of office expired on 31 December 1997, that is, Chile, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Poland and the Republic of Korea, for review and comments, if any. Corrigenda containing changes proposed by Council members and by the Secretariat have also been circulated to Council members.

The President: May I take it that the draft report as corrected is adopted by the Council?

There being no objection, it is so decided.

This decision will be reflected in a note by the President of the Security Council, to be issued as document S/1998/843.

The Security Council has thus concluded its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at noon.